

THE MCGILL DAILY

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Batteries not included since 1911.

Wednesday, October 9, 1991

City opposition leaks secret report

Garbage dump may cause cancer

by Chris Clark

Between 50 and 250 people may develop cancer as a result of toxic emissions produced from Montréal's garbage dump, according to a confidential study leaked by opposition city councillors.

The Coalition Démocratique de Montréal (CDM) released a preliminary study yesterday on gas emissions from the Miron quarry garbage dump in north-east Montréal. The study had been kept secret by the City of Montréal since its completion in January, 1990.

"We've released a report they should have released last year. Why weren't these facts made public. After all, they say sunlight is the best disinfectant," said CDM member Sam Boskey.

The study called for a more detailed investigation to be started by May of 1990. But the comprehensive study only began 13 months later.

CDM leader, Adélia Ferreira, denounced the city for dragging its feet and for keeping the first study secret.

But city spokesperson Lily Robert said "No study of this kind has been carried out in Quebec. It is a major undertaking which cannot be begun without prior preparation."

The leaked document was not a proper study, but a proposal for a

more in-depth study, she said.

"The company Biothermica and the Département de la santé communautaire (DSC) Sacré-Coeur were proposing to carry out a detailed study of the site. That study was approved by the council last June and is now underway."

She also said the predictions of cancer were based on a study of different sites in California and emissions from Miron might not match that study.

But Boskey said, "The ones who wrote the report knew what they were talking about. In their business, you can only use models and draw projections from them. If a certain number of cancer cases occurred at a specific site and another similar dump is twice the size, then twice the number of cases should be expected."

The preliminary study found that 1.2 tons of toxic contaminants are produced daily. The dump receives 1 600 000 tons of garbage yearly, 20 per cent of all of Québec's garbage. According to the study, this makes it the third largest dump site in North America, and the only large one situated right in the middle of a densely populated area.

Gaétan Nadeau, researcher for the CDM, called the dump site an "ecological monster."

"Part of the problem is that before the city took over the site in 1988, there were virtually no con-

trols over what could be dumped, so we have no idea what could be down there."

Nadeau estimates that a proper cleanup and containment of the site and contaminated areas would cost between \$500 million and 1 billion dollars.

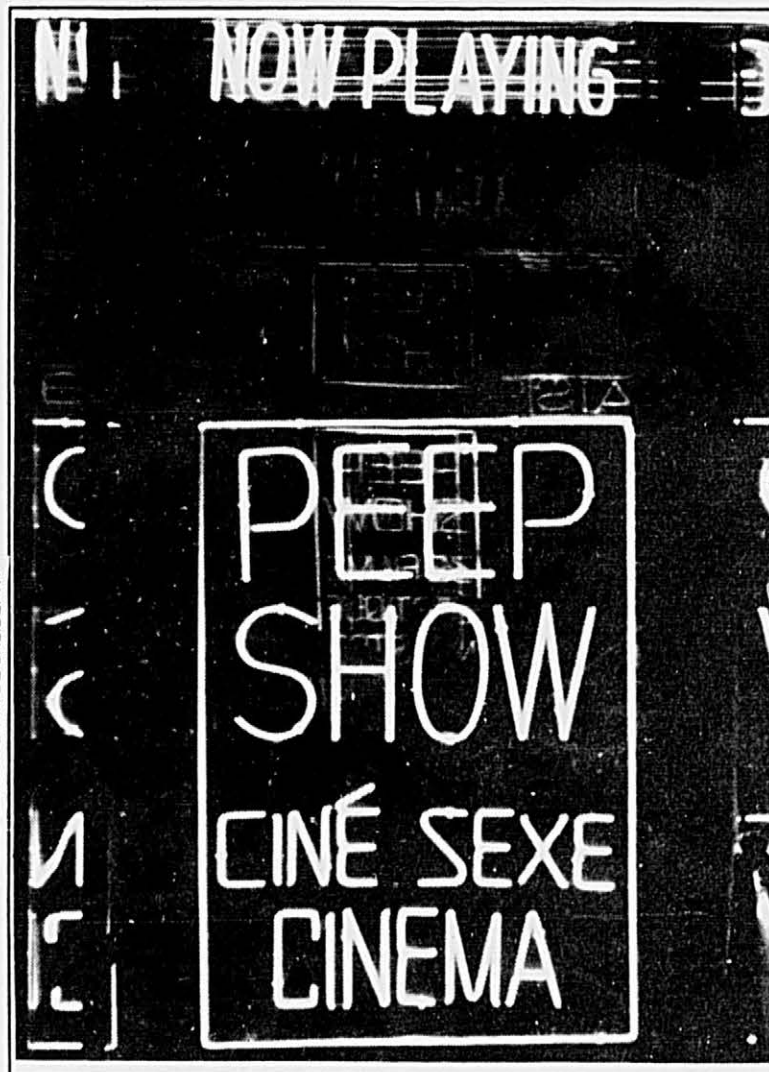
The city is presently installing a \$33 million gas-capture system. According to city officials, it should be in full operation in one year.

But Ferreira said immediate action is necessary and suggested that within 8 weeks an intermediate emissions control system could be put in place.

The study considered an area within a 5 kilometre radius of the quarry to be contaminated by the dump's emissions. The area includes a population of nearly 500 000 people, of which 31 284 live within 600 metres of the site. But the study also speculated that areas as far away as 100 kilometres could be contaminated by the emissions.

Besides cancer, the study found gases emitted could cause cardiovascular disease, aplastic anemia, and pulmonary edema. They also contribute to the greenhouse effect and the deterioration of the ozone layer.

The quarry, situated in the north east of the island, has been used as a dump site since 1968.



Strip down signs?

Anti-porn by-law contested

by Anik Hahn

Strip club owners and a few critical feminists are the only voices opposing a by-law passed unanimously by Montréal City Hall last spring.

The by-law prevents businesses such as strip clubs, sexshops, cinemas and peep shows from using the human body in any way shape or form on signs outside their businesses.

"It isn't fair," said Don Binett, owner of Wanda's. "Tourists make up 35 per cent of our clientele and without the signs, they won't be able to find us."

Strip club owners have banded together within the "Association of Cabarets" in order to fight the by-law. The association has hired lawyer Julius Grey to argue the by-law is a violation of our right to freedom of expression contained in the Charter of Rights. In two weeks, the strip clubs' case will be heard in provincial court.

"The by-law is completely irrational. It's one of the fruits of neo-puritanism" said Julius Grey.

The strip clubs are particularly concerned with revoking the by-law because they see it as the first step in a possible series of other moves by the government to limit their business.

"There has been talk of eventually requiring strip clubs to move out of commercial zones and into industrial zones," said Binett.

Business interests are not the

voices critical of the by-law. Paula Synnwich, a contributor for the *Mirror* newspaper, is critical of the by-law. She said her criticisms stem not only from a defence of freedom of speech, but from her principles as a feminist. Synnwich sees the by-law as symbolic of a larger move away from critical feminism.

"We have to ask ourselves how the by-law is really going to improve conditions for women," Synnwich said. "No one bothers to ask the women who are most directly affected by the by-law. The women who work in the sex industry will most likely suffer from the decrease in business."

Synnwich is cynical about the government's motives. "It is a cheap way of satisfying some feminist concern. All the government has to do is legislate. In addition to satisfying some feminists, the by-law also has the advantage of pleasing the far right, and the church."

"If the government was truly concerned about the condition of women, we would see them putting more attention and dollars into other concerns, such as daycare."

But according to Louise Hebert, who organized lobbying efforts for the bill, most feminists support the by-law.

"The by-law represents a growing awareness in our society. It is a recognition that our culture has depicted women in an inferior and degrading way" said Hebert.

For Hebert, the by-law hasn't

continued on page 8

350 for, 100 against

On the streets for choice

by Karen Carstens

Anti-abortionists took their cause to the streets on Sunday afternoon and were met by an even larger counter-protest.

"We are here to reaffirm the sanctity and the dignity of human life" said Gilles Grondin, president of Campagne-Québec-Vie, the organizer of the demonstration.

"The choice to kill your children is not a legitimate choice. Neither the mother nor the father should have this choice; it belongs to no one."

Over 100 people stood side by side along the corner of St. Denis and Ste. Catherine holding placards saying "Abortion Kills Children."

But they were met by 350 pro-choicers rallied in a counter-demonstration.

"Anti-choice campaigners try and reconstruct reality to make it fit in with their beliefs, but reality does not support what they are saying" said Cynthia Kelly of the Concordia Pro-Choice Collective.

"They think women have social support systems that will keep them afloat if they have babies, but that's just not true. Women make up the

majority of poor people in Canada."

The Collective organized an information "blitz" to counter the pro-life event. The purpose was to show strong pro-choice presence and to distribute pro-choice information, said Kelly.

Pro-choicers distributed information about the Bank of Montreal's new "For Life" credit card. A percentage of each transaction goes to the "Alliance for Life Canada", an anti-abortionist umbrella organization.

But Grondin said Campagne-Québec-Vie receives no funding from the credit card scheme.

"We don't have any subsidies from the banks and from the government, but the pro-death people receive subsidies from the three levels of government. The government is financing death," said Grondin.

But Kelly said cuts in government funding are actually threatening women's health services. The Quebec government has notified several women's health centres that their services have been considered "redundant" under new reforms to the provincial health system. These centers offer crucial abortion services to women in out-

lying regions, said Kelly.

"A major problem is that the pro-life movement has the government on its side" said Martin Dufresne of Montréal Men Against Sexism, which was also active in the info-blitz.

"This protest is aimed at Premier Bourassa to encourage him to cut abortion services to CLSC's (community health centres) and to install policies that would get women to have children whether they want them or not. The struggle has to be taken to higher levels of government, where men are still making decisions affecting women's lives," said Dufresne.

Although Campagne-Québec-Vie organizers discouraged journalists from interviewing their demonstrators, some could not hold back their unusual opinions.

"I pray for them" said Louis Lecomte, the president of a Montréal Pro-Life Group.

"They are misguided and not informed and I pray that they will get to know a little more about what real life is about, especially the spiritual-supernatural side. For them it's all on a human scale. We have God as our ally."

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Tuesday, October 15, 1991.

Proceeds from the show will go to **CHEZ DORIS**, a Women's First Line Resource Referral Centre. The show will begin at 9 p.m. in the Union Ballroom. Tickets will go on sale at 7 p.m. Beer will be available at the show.

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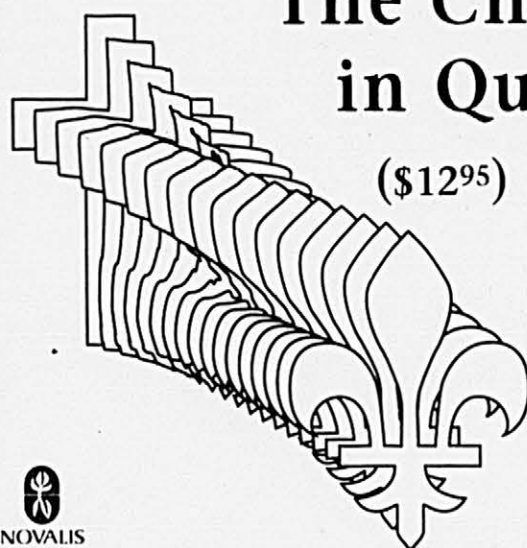
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N.D.G. by-election candidates debate

by Michelle Cooper

Candidates in the Nôtre-Dame de Grace by-election are making a kaleidoscope of promises to win support from the riding's voters. Promises range from a car-free downtown to city services in all languages.

But the "Meet the Candidates" gathering Monday rapidly developed into a free-for-all criticism of the ruling Montréal Citizens Movement party (MCM). Poverty, taxation, transit and housing were main topics for debate.

Many outraged citizens at the meeting denounced the city's master plan, forced evictions, the lack of funds for community projects, and the "insane amounts spent" on illuminated crosses and renovating the Mount-Royal chalet.

McGill student and Ecology Montréal party candidate Dylan Perceval discussed his plans for an "ecological city." He proposed increasing funding to public transportation and the creation of a "pedestrian zone," prohibiting automobiles from downtown streets. Perceval also supported an intensive recycling program as an alternative to dumps and incinerators.

Municipal Party candidate Mario Salvatore criticized highly paid city employees and "the squandering of public money — yours and mine." If elected, he said all ethnic groups and languages would be represented at city hall.

Civic Party candidate Marcel Tremblay presented a platform centred on economic issues. Privatizing public transport and tax

breaks to new businesses as a way of stemming urban unemployment were some of his suggested reforms.

Claudette Godley of the Coalition Démocratique de Montréal said she was most concerned with the level of poverty in N.D.G.

"Children go hungry because their parents have to spend over 40 to 50 per cent of their incomes on rent," she said.

She attacked the MCM for not establishing a direct dialogue between itself and the city's minorities.

But MCM candidate and Québec Black Community Coalition leader Leith Hamilton quickly rebutted Godley's criticisms.

Hamilton said he wants to actively represent minorities, offering police-ethnic relations as an example.

"Increased collaboration with the police is a must. They alone can't prevent crime," said Hamilton.

When questioned if he would be treated by MCM executives as their "token black," Hamilton said, "I

want to go in as a person with ideas, not because of the colour of my skin."

If elected, Hamilton would be the first black councillor ever elected to city hall.

Several candidates directly attacked mayor Jean Doré's MCM administration. Godley told voters to "send them a message to shape up or ship out."

Several citizens at the gathering questioned a proposed city by-law that would allow McGill to build its new athletics on Mount-Royal.

Economics may alter undergrad curriculum

by Alex Roslin

Members of the troubled Economics department may make changes to the undergraduate curriculum following widespread student dissatisfaction last spring.

The most important proposals to be debated at the next departmental meeting are a joint Economics/Management program, a program in political economy, and increased course requirements for majors students.

The Economics department now has the lowest number of course requirements in the entire faculty of Arts, besides the Anthropology department.

"I don't think there are many departments in the university that have gone to such trouble soliciting students' input," said Economics professor John Galbraith, who sat on a committee which studied the majors program.

The proposal for a program in political economy within Economics would address a feeling among students that the department offers too little liberal arts content, and too much math, Galbraith said.

"It's useful to have math in the department, because economics is largely about efficiency and optimization. But we recognize students have other interests as well."

But Economics professor John Kurien said a program in political economy will probably have to wait because the department currently doesn't have enough courses in the field to offer interested students.

The proposals follow a survey conducted by the Economics Students' Association last spring, and months of consultations among professors.

Three-quarters of the 238 students surveyed said they wanted the department to set up a joint program with Management. Just over half the students were in favour of more courses in political economy, or even a degree in political

economy. Political economy is a field largely dominated by liberal and left-wing economists.

One-quarter of respondents said the department doesn't offer enough course variety.

Students dismayed

But some students expressed scepticism that the proposals would solve the problems of the department.

A third-year student, who wished to remain unnamed, said the proposed changes "seem superficial."

"With all the complaints about the lack of relevant courses in the department, I'm not sure the changes they want will do the job."

Another third-year student, who also wished to go unnamed, worried that many of the findings in the survey will be ignored. He said the survey was conducted with the sole purpose of instituting the management program, and little else.

"The economics professors are interested in the management program because they want to apply their neoclassical and neoconservative ideas to management," he said.

"This is a big trend in the discipline."

But the student said, "it would be good to have the management option — as long as we get the political economy also."

"There's not much variety in the courses offered right now."

He also said the department needs to change academic advising. Professors in the department have been criticized because they "don't take enough concern in students," he said.

Fifty per cent of students in the survey rated academic advising in the department to be either insufficient or worse than insufficient.

Kurien said the department will discuss the majors curriculum and management program this Friday.



PHOTO CREDIT: JANINE LUCE

ACT-UP demonstrated last week outside the offices of the Centre Québécoise de coordination sur le SIDA, to protest government inaction on the 909 people who've died from AIDS in Québec as of last June.

Debate on oral contraceptives in health plan

Will McGill get the pill?

by Alex Laine

Students continue to discuss the inclusion of oral contraceptives in the new health plan proposed by Students' Society.

Lev Bukhman, Students' Society VP Finance, wants to bring the health plan to referendum this November. He hopes to have a separate question so that students can vote on whether to include oral contraceptives in the plan.

Women's Union member, Colleen Wiegiers said contraceptives should be included. "I don't think it should be a choice. I don't think it should even be an issue," said Wiegiers.

Wiegiers said she was concerned about the discrepancy in prices between the plan with oral contraceptives and the plan without them. "The discrepancy could influence the decisions made by students," she said.

The health plan would cost each student approximately \$1.30 a month without oral contraceptives. But if oral contraceptives were included, the plan would cost \$3.70 a month.

Each woman student using oral

contraceptives would be refunded \$96 during the course of the year (\$8 per month).

VP External Affairs Karla MacDonald said she thinks inclusion of oral contraceptives in the plan is a great idea. But MacDonald said students should be aware of the other safe sex issues. One of her main concerns was that the issue of safe sex was not addressed because condoms are not included.

Wiegiers said there was a need for safe sex education along with the implementation of the plan. "It would be ideal if condoms were included in the plan," she said. If condoms were not included, it would be make sense to have free distribution of condoms on campus, she said.

MacDonald believed the lack of condom subsidization would be counteracted if SSMU were to distribute condoms at a reduced price. At the moment condoms are available at the Woman's Union at cost (3 for \$1). They are also sold at Health Services in the Student Services Building.

MacDonald was also concerned that the inclusion of oral contraceptives would exclude the gay and

lesbian communities at McGill, since oral contraceptives are useful for birth control, but not safe sex. They would have to pay elevated prices for the inclusion of oral contraceptives.

But both coordinators at Gays and Lesbians of McGill (GALOM), Charles Weijer and Salimah Kassim-Lakha, supported the inclusion of oral contraceptives in the plan.

"My feeling is that, as lesbians, we're also behind straight women in their need for contraception," said Kassim-Lakha. She also said the plan should include condoms, since just having oral contraceptives doesn't involve "the other implications of having sex" for both men and women.

Director of Health Services, Dr. Pierre-Paul Tellier, said of the approximately 6000 students who visit Health Services yearly, about 1000 to 2000 are women coming for oral contraceptives. The majority of these are women who are using the pills for contraceptive purposes. Very few are using them for other medical benefits, said Tellier.

THE MCGILL DAILY

COMMENT

Iron Thorsell's white sheet

The Daily recently obtained a copy of a letter mailed from David Duke, famous KKK member, to William Thorsell, editor-in-chief of the Toronto Globe and Mail. We reprint the letter below as a public service:

Dear William:

I recently obtained a copy of your fascinating editorial, "New insights into masculinity strike a deep chord in many men," which reviews the book *Iron John, A Book About Men*, by Robert Bly. I and my colleagues in the KKK would like to congratulate you on your skillful reasoning and wise conclusions.

Your piece echoes all the arguments we've been making for decades. The editorial argues that "men have become confused about their male identities and roles, that alienation, violence and cultural decline are linked to the disorientation of males who are not maturely masculine."

William, if one merely replaces the word "men" with "white people," and the term "maturely masculine" with "proudly Aryan," why, you've got yourself a pamphlet much like the one I wrote up the other day!

White people in today's world are demoralized, and need answers. We are confused about our identities as members of a race with many burdensome duties to society. And this confusion is directly responsible for most of the world's problems — among them cultural decline and violence.

But white people are also acquiring new insights into what it means to be white, just like men.

You speak eloquently of the "shame" of the "fatherless boy," who grows up "without a proper initiation into masculinity." You agree with author Robert Bly that this shame "affects most males in North America."

This lack of "initiation" is "why men so often fail in their relationships with women and their duties to society," you write.

What could be more obvious.

An American acquaintance of mine felt just such a shame when in his home town, New York City, a mayor was elected who wasn't a Christian, and then one who wasn't even white. My friend had no role-model, just like the boy you worry about so profoundly.

With one's spirit sagging under such shame, how can a white person interact with members of other races properly. How can he fulfill his many important duties to society. I ask you!

Of course, you are even more profound, William, when you write of the "opaque feminists," to use your wonderful term.

I, too, react with alarm when the feminists and their traitorous allies among the male sex wish us to forget that men and women are both bound to their biology.

"To posit 'human nature' as an independent variable sounds reactionary in the prevailing intellectual climate," you rightly observe, Bill (can I call you Bill?)

"There is a numbing tendency in our public life to attack anyone who raises cultural norms or psychological forces in seeking to understand human behaviour."

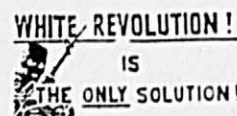
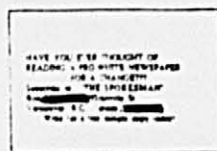
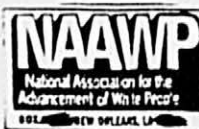
Profound. You must have read our newsletter. Human nature and cultural norms are most certainly important! And I find it hard to believe how many white people are ashamed of their own nature and race. Pride in one's nature — that's the final solution.

Well, I've got to run, William. I'm writing a mini-series for a major network. Why don't you review it?

Best of luck,
Dave

Intercepted by Alex Roslin and Robin LeBaron.

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LAND
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LETTERS

orous arguments. Whining, name-calling, and self-righteousness are not very convincing ways of arguing, and are in fact quite a nuisance for those who read his numerous letters in the *Daily* every week. Unfortunately, I don't have old copies of the *Daily* from which to draw examples of his weak reasoning but: No, Mr. Chomsky, "BRIAN MULRONEY IS SATAN INCARNATE!" is not proof (??) because you are a Canadian. (??)

Moreover, I am curious as to why Mr. Chomsky seems to consider himself the Chief Defender of Israel and Judaism at McGill. While it may be true that letters, articles and editorials appear in the *Daily* from time to time which are overly or unduly critical of Israeli government politics and/or Judaism (or Arab politics or Canadian politics or McGill politics or, or, or...), why is it that Mr. Chomsky consistently responds with a barrage of right-wing Jewish rhetoric? In referring to the "Arabic" people as one might refer to an Arabic book, or by calling a person with first name Salimah a "Mr.", Mr. Chomsky demonstrates that he seems to know very little about cultures other than his own, and even that is questionable.

I would suggest to Mr. Chomsky that if he cannot submit his ideas in an objective and coherent way (for this is indeed possible), he not submit them at all.

I hope that this clarifies my position for Mr. Blitt and anyone else interested.

By the way Mr. Chomsky, my name is Islam but I am neither a Muslim nor an Arab, so don't jump to any wild conclusions.

Moni Islam
B.Eng. U3

Aspirin for economics

To the Daily:

I'm glad the *Daily* has finally gotten onto the story of what's going on in the economics department. It has got to be one of the worst in the province as far as collegiality and quality of teaching go. Some of the professors the article on the blooper prize mentions — I'm not surprised they were caught saying and doing those things; they have some of the worst course evaluation scores I've seen at McGill. It was because of the lousy course offerings in economics that I changed majors, though I understand there's a minor effort being made now to change the undergraduate program. I wonder if it isn't like trying to cure a decapitation victim with an aspirin. On

well, the country's going to pot anyway.

P.S. Whatever happened to Emmanuel Chomski. Haven't heard a peep from him since he was asked to do a column in the *Daily*, poor soul. I admired his quiet determination. Fear not, young Emmanuel, they don't mean it. No one wants you to write a column.

Luke Weldon
Arts U3

McGill's legal adviser

To the Daily:

Your article, "McGill invested by Human Rights Commission" (October 2), aside from a few matters of imprecision that I shall not pursue at present, marks a good new beginning to a public discussion of my complaint with the Québec Human Rights Commission against the Faculty of Religious Studies at McGill University of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Assuming it is correct, I find interesting the statement quoted from the University's legal advisor, Mr. Raynald Mercille: "The university denies all allegations of discrimination. The decision concerning Cooper was made on purely administrative matters" (whatever the final phrase may mean). This comment seems to me to be at variance with Mr. Mercille's quoted remark in *The Daily's* story "McGill to address human rights charges" (April 12, 1991). There Mr. Mercille, speaking about "grievances against the University," says: "Very few of them turn out to be founded. But we approach each one with an open mind." Indeed, it would appear that in his latest comment Mr. Mercille is prejudging my case when the Human Rights Commission itself has not reached a final assessment.

Richard Cooper
Montréal

Nihilistic post-modernness

To the Daily:

Mr. MacNeill (arms in the air, October 3) is correct when he says we should turn a deaf ear to nihilistic post-modern nonsense. What ever the hell that is.

There is such a thing as right and wrong. My point was that there is no group which has a monopoly on truth.

As for politics, the art of compromise is an activity which consistently has brought out the worst in its participants. Public service seems to breed contempt for the public. Our own SSMU is a prime example.

I believe in decent behavior and

honor. The right of all people to the pursuit of happiness. Time after time I have seen the oppressed become the oppressor and government on all levels abuse the public.

A fine man once told me that "politics was a mugger's game." We need a change, a fundamental change.

Pierre LaRocque
Drama U4

Remarks unfair

To the Daily:

The remarks attributed to me in the last issue of the *Daily* were very badly distorted, so I am writing to set the record straight. What I in fact said was offered as an analogy to show the flaw (as I saw it) in the argument of one of my colleagues, and I explicitly stated that I was not referring to the students using it! No wonder the student you quoted found the second — or third-hand version of the remark "just unbelievable" — obviously a person of good sense.

These remarks about the department are especially unfair in light of the fact that I have devoted a great deal of time over the last year to organizing and chairing a committee to try to make the majors programme more convenient, useful and interesting to students — a committee which encouraged and attracted student representation, and whose final report reflects a lot of student input from a widely-circulated survey. Many of my colleagues have contributed to this and parallel efforts. The articles leave the impression that we care only about research and grad students, but it just ain't so.

John Galbraith
Associate Professor, Economics

Ed. note: The remarks attributed to Galbraith could have been misinterpreted, and the *Daily* apologizes for any misunderstanding. Our information is that at a departmental meeting another professor had suggested that the absence of student representation on an academic committee may cause a war with students. In response to this, Galbraith told the *Daily* yesterday that he used the analogy of a government's response to terrorists in order to argue against giving students the representation. He also said the department's response should be dictated by general principles, not hypothetical demands by terrorists. But when one of the students at the meeting seemed puzzled by the remarks, Galbraith later insisted that he hadn't intended the analogy to apply to students.

LETTERS

Tireless submission

To the Daily:

In response to Rob Blitt's letter in the *Daily* on October 2, I would invite him to merely refer to Mr. Chomsky's letter of the same day. It should then become quite clear why one might think

that Mr. Chomsky's letters are foolish.

If Mr. Chomsky has so much spare time on his hands that he can tirelessly submit letters to the *Daily* every time he finds an opinion contradicting his own, perhaps he should spend a little more of that time developing slightly more rig-

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Constitution and capitalism both start with "C"

by Alex Roslin

The Tories may concede the battle over property rights, but win the war in their effort to restructure the economy, unions say.

The government hopes to use divisive tactics to weaken opposition to its proposed reforms to the Canadian economy, says the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, an Ottawa think-tank funded by most of the country's major national unions. The reforms would amount to "a social charter for big business, cloaked as economic union proposals," said a report released by the Centre on Monday.

The government wants to bring Québec business into its fold, and divide the province's volatile nationalist movement, the Centre said.

"It appears the government wants an economic debate to split the progressive and business elements of the nationalist movement in Québec."

The constitutional question would also split progressive groups and unions in Canada as a whole, the Centre said. The Left in Québec would demand greater powers for the province, according to the government's plan, while the English Left in Canada would demand a strong central government.

"The government is also counting on popular sector groups to be torn over what stance to take with respect to Québec," the report said.

The confusion would prevent the groups from intervening with any coherent vision in the "wider

Two of the key economic proposals, are especially close to the hearts of business leaders — an "economic union" clause, which would strike down barriers to "free trade" within Canada; and amendments to the Bank of Canada Act that would make fighting inflation take priority over social welfare and job creation.

"The federal proposals in the economic area are, in considerable part, an attempt to constitutionalize and thus make much more binding and effective key elements of the neoconservative economic agenda," the Centre said.

Steve Jelly, a researcher at the 160 000-member Public Service Alliance of Canada, also criticized the property rights idea.

"It may seem fairly innocuous. But property rights would allow corporations to challenge unions picketing on their property. It may threaten health and safety standards, minimum wage and possibly even the right to collective bargaining."

Divide and rule

The Centre's warning about unions being divided on the Québec question also appear to be accurate.

Fred Sweet, a long-time union leader in Québec's 166 000-member Confédération des Syndicats Nationaux, agreed that the constitutional proposals are "reactionary."

"The constitutional proposals are part of the business agenda for the Canadian state. They institutionalize the transfer of money from the poor and middle-class to the rich."

But the constitutional reforms also ignore the "legitimate aspirations for Québec independence," Sweet said.

"There's no mention of any important issues in the proposals. The reforms would actually take more power for the federal government. In order for there to be real social progress, Québec should be fully independent."

Sweet's sentiments have been echoed by Parti Québécois leader Jacques Parizeau and Le Devoir publisher Lise Bissonnette.

Parizeau's power base is the provincial civil service and smaller Québec businesses. He charged that Ottawa wants to dismantle what is widely known as "Québec Inc." — the close association of the provincial government with Québec-based corporations, like the engineering firms which profit from Hydro-Québec's lucrative contracts.

Parizeau warned that Ottawa's "economic union" clause would prevent the province from giving special consideration to Québec-based firms. The clause would also threaten province-based financial institutions, like the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec and the Desjardins credit union network.

Both are sources of large pools of capital to Québec businesses.

But the constitutional proposals have left Québec unions and small, Québec-based businesses in opposition with larger businesses and unions in the rest of Canada.

Ghislain Dufour, the head of Québec's largest business group, which represents many large corporations with operations beyond Québec, has come out strongly in favour of the constitutional changes.

Dufour told the *Globe and Mail* two weeks ago that Québec nationalists are exaggerating the threat to the province's autonomy and are being opportunistic.

National unions in Canada are also against more economic power for Québec, because of what they see as an attempt to break up strong federal institutions which can hold Canada together.

"I'm so fed up with constitutional reform," said a member of

the Canadian Union of Communications Workers, the union representing workers at Northern, a nation-wide corporation. He wished to remain unnamed.

"We need a stronger federal government, not a weaker one. I am frightened that Mulroney just won't stop making stupid and idiotic proposals, and won't deal with the economic problems in this country."

NEWS BRIEFS



Toxic ash, toxic emissions, toxic water. What next? Toxic politicians.

Incinerator criticized

A report written by a McGill group has criticized the decision to build a new incinerator for the city's suburbs.

McGill student and Québec-PIRG member Aaron Freeman released his report on incineration on the island of Montréal last Friday. The report addresses the city's recurrent waste management difficulties. It focusses on problems with incineration.

"There are alternatives to incineration that should be considered, especially since incineration conflicts with the public interest," the report reads.

The association of Montréal suburban communities has granted the Foster Wheeler Corporation a contract to build a new incinerator.

"Instead of finding the necessary solutions to reduce waste, they simply brought in consultants who sold them incineration."

— Ivy Lam

Environmental studies diploma

A new diploma program will allow McGill students with an undergraduate degree to gain a better understanding of environmental issues.

"The program will allow stu-

dents to fit their departmental expertise within a environmental framework," said Geography professor Thomas Meredith.

The year-long program will allow students to broaden their expertise without having to spend many years in graduate school, said Meredith. The program can also serve as preparation for post-graduate studies.

Twenty-four of the program's 30 credits will duplicate those presently making up the current minor program in Environmental Studies. The remaining six credits will be in diverse fields.

Meredith said there has long been a need for an environmental diploma at McGill. He said the job market for people with expertise in environmental issues is expanding as industry becomes more environmentally sensitive.

York University has a three-year graduate program and both McGill and Concordia offer minor programs to undergraduates in Environmental Studies. But Meredith said no other university in Canada has a similar program bridging the gap between undergraduate studies and graduate work.

Nine students have already en-

rolled in the program since it's approval by Senate two weeks ago.

— Irene Bloemraad

Student fed'n wants tuition fees indexed

La Fédération Etudiante Universitaire de Québec (FEUQ) has recommended that the provincial government index university fees in a final report released this week. FEUQ said it would permit increases no greater than the Consumer Price Index, typically 5 to 7 per cent annually.

In another report FEUQ criticized the \$1200 fee increase for international students. It requested the government exempt international students already studying in Canada from paying the fees. And it recommended that government subsidies to universities for international students be reset to the levels existing before the international students' tuition fee hike.

The second report also criticized the government for its lack of consultation with FEUQ.

FEUQ is a federation of various student societies throughout Québec, including McGill's Student Society.

— Dave Ley

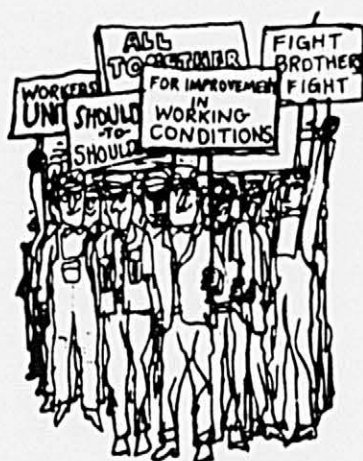
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constitutional debate," the Centre said.

Property rights

The Conservative government made public its constitutional proposals two weeks ago. One of the most controversial economic proposals is the entrenchment of property rights in the constitution.

The Centre argues that the government has proposed property rights as a gambit, hoping that the outcry would allow other economic reforms to pass through unnoticed.



After S.Q. crisis, a stronger sense of community

Mohawks at Kanesatake finding common cause

by Nicola Wolters

It's been a year since the barricades have come down in Oka and the process of healing continues.

Although Kanesatake seems to be fraught with problems resulting from what Mohawks call the "S.Q. crisis," the stand-off has had positive consequences on the community. Gordie Oke, a Mohawk living in Kanesatake, said there has been a "new awakening" in the community.

"A strong Mohawk identity is really coming out," Oke says.

His sister, Vivian Oke, a school teacher who only recently moved back to Kanesatake, agrees. She says that due to the crisis, she feels "more Mohawk." She credits this to the community's solidarity during the crisis. Working with the Food Bank during the crisis was the first time she was involved in her community.

"I feel more at home now, whereas before I really didn't."

But perhaps the crisis' most positive result has been the community's realization of a common purpose. "We might have our inner fightings in regard to politics, but bring up the land question and everybody will be there," Gordie says.

This feeling has extended beyond the limits of Kanesatake to other Mohawks who now experience the same unity.

Dale Dionne, of the Kahnawake Mohawk Nation Office, says, "The majority of the people have come a long way and have come out of it with more strength, rather than being divided."

But there has been no support from the federal government for community self-help programs, Gordie says. He was part of a committee that presented proposals to the federal government for healing in the community. Some of the projects requiring federal assistance were discussion groups, visits from psychologists and youth counselling.

Gordie is very bitter that the federal government rejected the entire slate of proposals. He says

the healing has been left to individuals' own resources. Being able to talk to one another about their own experiences has been important to community members, says Gordie.

"You turn to the people you know and say, 'Are you experiencing the same things?' So you talk about it. You get to feel the pain the other people are going through."

Gordie is the part-owner of a restaurant in the majority-white community of Oka. Sitting in his restaurant, *Au Bon Appétit*, it's hard to imagine that just over a year ago if you had looked out the window, your view would have been of soldiers and tanks.

Gordie's restaurant is the only place in Oka where Mohawks can get together and relax. "It's the first time in a long time that a Native person has acquired a business within the Oka community in quite a few years."

Since the crisis, the restaurant has also been one of the few places where whites and Mohawks mix.

"It's a place where some white people come in. They say there's no politics. Everybody's welcome. I give everybody the same treatment."

Post-crisis syndrome

The atmosphere in the restaurant does not even hint at the experiences of the summer of 1990. Friends relax over a beer, someone tells a joke, heads turn and people join in the laughter.

Gordie, too, looks relaxed. But to believe this appearance would be deceiving. Although he casually discusses his feelings, his words are disturbing. "I've still got a lot of anger. I'm still very violent. I'd like to break stuff, punch people. I've got to learn to control myself. I'm going through therapy because of my anger."

Gordie is not alone with his feelings. "We are all going through the post-crisis syndrome. Our lives have all changed. Peoples' characters have changed."

Gordie is also concerned about the children of Kanesatake. The lack of professional counselling has made it difficult for the commu-



Gordie Oke at his restaurant in Oka.

nity to help its children. Gordie has noticed a change in the behaviour of his friends' children.

"They're very aggressive. They're still playing barricades."

He said the crisis has marked the children for their lives. There is much worry in the community about how they will turn out as adults. And due to a worsening local economy, most people are preoccupied more with feeding their families than with healing their emotional wounds.

Although there are no available statistics on unemployment, Band Council Chief Clarence Simon said there is "definitely a higher rate of unemployment."

Simon said helping Mohawks through their financial difficulties has been difficult because some find it very hard to accept joblessness.

"The people are still a little bit shy to speak out that they need financial aid," said Simon.

Some Mohawks find it difficult receiving social assistance from a government that sent the army into their community. But financial as-

sistance is also harder to get due to the strain in relations between Mohawks and the government.

"With everything that happened, there's still a mistrust on both sides," said Simon.

Simon also blames a lack of confidence in the Band Council for the community's hesitation to ask for government aid. The newly-installed Council has not yet gained the support of the entire community. Some even question the Band Council's legitimacy.

The main opposition to the band council is the Longhouse of the Six Nations Confederacy, whose mentor was Deganawidah. The Longhouse is based on traditional principles, says Walter David Sr., and its members are chosen by clan mothers. The Longhouse doesn't recognize the band council, whose officials are chosen by election.

Longhouse members say that band councils and the electoral system were imposed on First Nations as a way to circumvent traditional ways of choosing repre-

sentatives.

David says the band council can't legally represent Mohawks on land claims issues because it hasn't existed there since time immemorial,

one of the legal requirements for recognition of aboriginal rights.

But the feelings of renewal and stronger identity have led Mohawks of Kanesatake to better understand their relation with white society. Although they can no longer be pushed around, they

won't rest until they have claimed what is theirs, Gordie says.

"Our backs are up to the wall. These moccasins don't have any reverse."

But Gordie says Mohawk land claims and self-government can't be accomplished without the understanding and support of non-Mohawks. He extends an invitation to non-Mohawks to "come to the community."

"Talk with some Mohawks," he suggests. "See where it happened. See the solitude of the Pines."

Fighting cholera an uphill battle in El Salvador

by Chris Clark

The cholera epidemic devastating Latin America has reached El Salvador. And power politics, massive poverty and an ineffective health service may make the country a ripe breeding ground for the disease, according to two Salvadoreans touring Canada.

The cholera epidemic will get more serious in the marginalized communities surrounding the country's capital city, San Salvador, said Sister Juana Mendoza de Gomez, a member of the National Committee Against Cholera. These shantytowns and villages have no effective sewage system, and feces

and garbage end up in local drinking water.

"The government plan [for preventing cholera] cannot help these people," said Gomez. "The plan requires all water to be boiled for 20 minutes before being used." But few in San Salvador's outskirts can afford the fuel required to sterilize their water, Gomez said. And the communities at greatest risk are between four to eight hours walk to the nearest hospital in the city's centre.

Two months ago, El Salvador's Ministry of Health announced that cholera had arrived in the country. According to the government, there have been 150 serious cases, 38 very

serious, and two fatalities. But the government claims the two fatalities occurred because the infected victims were drunk and aggravated the illness.

Popular education is one way of teaching Salvadoreans how to recognize and treat symptoms of cholera, said Gomez. Delegates from popular organizations such as unions and community groups have toured villages in high-risk areas.

The 11-year civil war in El Salvador has divided the country into government and rebel-held zones. Gomez said the government has been uncooperative with the fight against cholera in rebel-held terri-

tory. The government originally granted health workers permission to enter the "restricted areas". But soldiers prevented them from passing through to rebel-held territory.

"We returned to the government, and they said yes, no problem, you can return and you will be let in," said de Gomez. But when they returned to the military checkpoint, they were allowed to pass, but forced to leave their medical supplies behind.

De Gomez said international health organisations like the Red Cross or UNICEF would be ineffective working in El Salvador. She said most international aid is han-

dled by the Salvadorean government. As a result, aid is first given to military hospitals and never reaches rebel-occupied zones.

Cholera first reappeared in this hemisphere 10 months ago in Peru. The bacteria is believed to have come from Asia on a fishing boat.

Sisters Juana Mendoza de Gomez and Rosa Egmidia Soto are in Canada for eleven weeks to speak about conditions in El Salvador. The Teachers' Committee on El Salvador is organizing a fund drive in Montreal for the fight against cholera. For more information contact Alex Kehler at 276-2009.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Critical feminism...

continued from page 1

come a moment too soon. "Over the last ten years we have witnessed a growing aggressivity in the advertising of the sex industry. This increased aggressivity is directly related to women's increase in power in our society."

Many feminists argue the signs outside strip clubs are insulting. But Synowich is wary of this reaction.

"I personally don't find the signs insulting. What is insulting about a woman's body? It is not the images of a woman's body which are degrading, but rather what these images have come to signify. Female sexuality is not degrading, but in our society it has become a springboard for degradation."

Synowich thinks the bylaw will do more harm than good.

"At least with the signs we can point to the attitudes that exist and criticize and debate" explained Synowich.

But the fate of the bylaw may be decided outside the feminist arena. According to Binett, the strip clubs have a good chance of reversing the bylaw. Why?

"Because we pay the most taxes here."

Events

Escape the urban jail and get out into the forest. McGill outing club general meeting today 19:30 Leacock 26.

Q-PIRG's violence against women project. Today 16:00 Union 435. Everyone welcome.

Royal Victoria Hospital holds mental health lecture series. "family burden of parental mental illness." Today at 19:30 in the Allan Memorial Institute, 1025 Pine Ave. West in the South Seminar Room. Open to all.

Mohawk Culture Spirituality and Political Practices. The public is invited to a sensitization and information session on Mohawk culture. Today 19:00 4917 St.-Urbain. English and French. Admission: \$6 (\$3.50 for students and unemployed).

The Community Co-operation Development Association is looking for people interested in development-related work in developing countries. General meeting today at 17:30. Union 108.

The McGill Women's Union presents: The Bourbon Tabernacle Choir.

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